Archie® ADVENTURE SERIES

SEGA®

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

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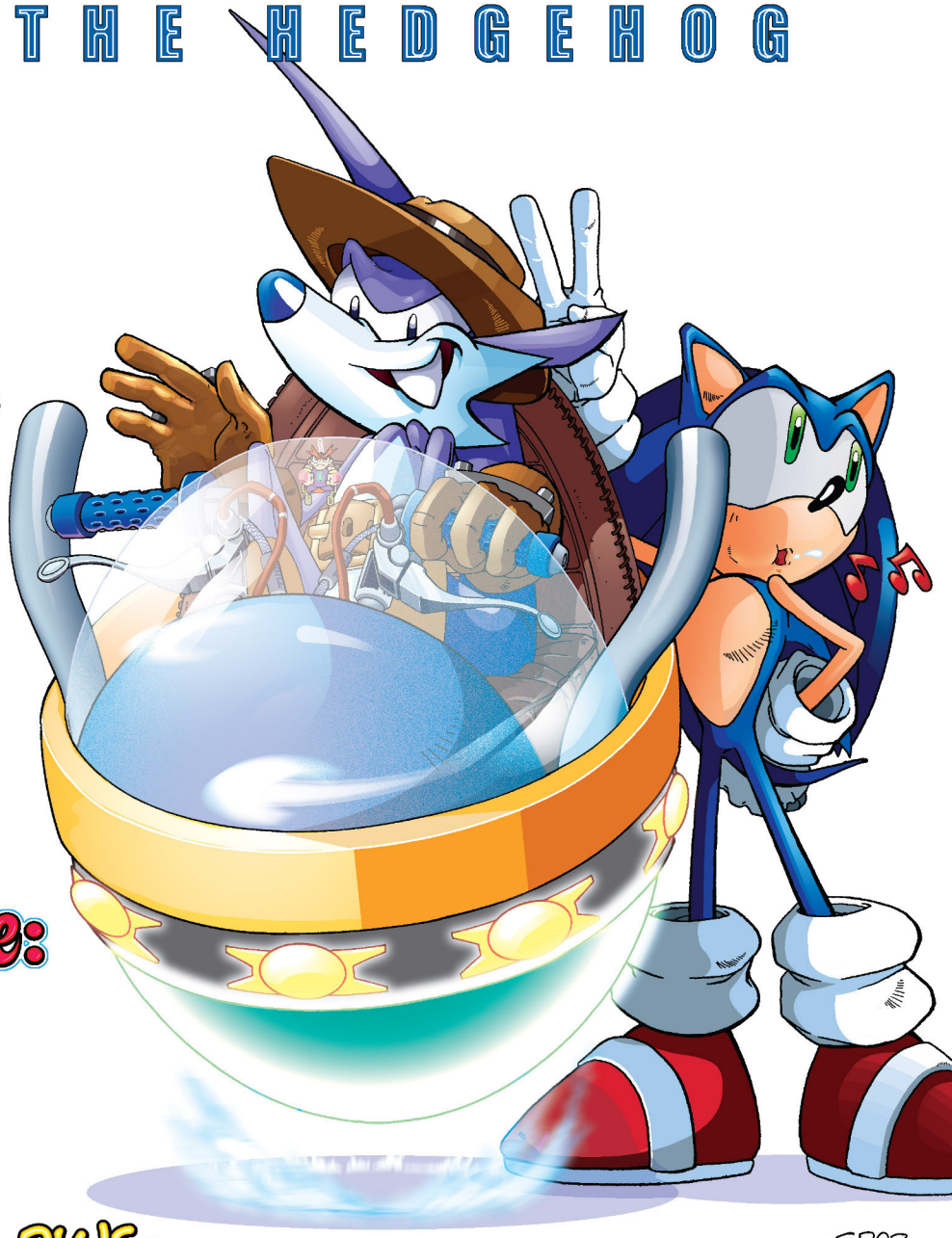
NACK IS BACK TO INTERRUPT SONIC'S LOVE TRIANGLE TROUBLE IN THREE, TWO—

"Heart Held Hostage: PART ONE"

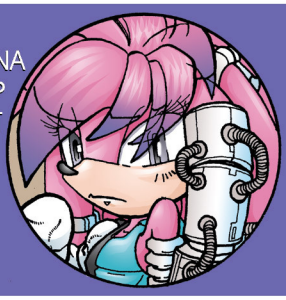


SPAZ
RIBEIRO

PLUS:

WHAT DOES AN ECHIDNA DO WITH HIMSELF "AFTERLIFE" IS OVER? FIND OUT IN OUR LATEST **KNUCKLES'** CHAPTER

HOW DO A CYBERNETIC ECHIDNA AND A HIP-HOP CROC PUT PAST DIFFERENCES BEHIND THEM— **JULIE-SU** AND **VECTOR** HAVE THE ANSWER



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PRESENT
SONIC IN
THE HEDGEHOG
"Heart Held Hostage"
part one
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INKER
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JEFF POWELL
LETTERER
J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SPRINGTIME IN KNOTHOLE...
WRONG NOTE, SON.
SORRY, DAD!
GEE, MISTER HEDGEHOG, IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS...
...WHY DON'T YOU PLAY 'EM ANYMORE?
THESE ROBOTICIZED FINGERS AREN'T NEARLY NIMBLE ENOUGH TO PLUCK THOSE GUITAR STRINGS, TAILS...
...BUT I CAN STILL TEACH MY BOY HOW!

AND, AS THE BLUE BLUR CONTINUES TO PLAY VARIOUS CHORDS...
...MANY GATHER...
...AND A CROWD SOON FORMS AROUND THE HEDGEHOG FAMILY HUT.
AMONG WHICH ARE...
...SOME VERY FAMILIAR FACES.
HE'S A NATURAL BORN TALENT!
SO SUAVE... SO SKILLED... SO...
...SO SONIC!
WELL, MINA GIRL, HERE GOES NOTHING!

NOT FAR AWAY AT CASTLE ACORN...
HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS, SALLY, AND BE SURE TO BE HOME IN TIME FOR SUPPER.
AND, WHY NOT TAKE A ROYAL ESCORT, DEAR?
DON'T WORRY, MOM AND DAD...
...I WON'T BE NEEDING ONE.
WHAT? IS IT MY COLOGNE?
SOON...
THAT GUITAR RIFF. SO RAW... SO PASSIONATE ...SO SONIC!
AND THAT VOICE...
...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
LIKE AN ANGEL.
IT'S...

--MINA?!
I--
--I NEED TO SIT DOWN.
HEY! THERE'S AUNT SALLY!
OUI, OUI... BUT ZEE PRINCESS EEZ PULLING ZEE ABOUT FACE!
BUT, WHY?
Uhh... WHY DON'T YOU FELLAS STAY PUT!
THE TWO OF THEM... THEY SOUND REALLY AMAZING TOGETHER.
HEY, SALLY-GIRL!
BUNNIE?
IN THE FULL-BODIED FUR! WHERE YUH GOIN'? YUH LOOK LIKE SOMEBODY SHOT YER PAW!

SERIOUSLY, GIRLFRIEND, IT'S ME! AH RECKON SUMTHIN'S BOTHERIN' YUH.
IT'S NOTHING. IT'S SILLY, ACTUALLY.
SO WHY DON'T YUH TRY ME ANYWAYS?
IT'S...IT'S JUST THAT...
...WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT SONIC AND I WERE SOUL MATES...
...THAT SOMEDAY WE'D EVENTUALLY BE TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?
WELL, LATELY I'M NOT SO SURE.
HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH MINA'S GOTCHA MORE NERVOUS THAN A LONG-TAILED CAT IN A ROOM FULL O' ROCKIN' CHAIRS, HUH?
THEY BOTH HAVE SPEED, ROBOTICIZED PARENTS, AND NOW THEY CAN ALSO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER.
AWWW...C'MON SALLY. YUH GOTTA KNOW THAT SONIC CARES ABOUT YUH MORE THAN ANYTHIN' IN THIS HERE WORLD.
QUESTION IS: DOES HE KNOW THAT YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY?
I'M NOT SURE...
WELL, DON'TCHA THINK HE SHOULD?

VMMMMMMMM
WHA--?
AWESOME!
YEAH!
FREEBIRD!
INCOMING!
KLJO
UGGHH!
KLONG
OOOOF!
WELL, I GUESS THE VERDICT IS IN! NOT ONLY ARE YOU MOBIUS' NUMBER ONE HERO, YOU ALSO WAIL ON GUITAR!
YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF!
WELL, I MAY NOT BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER...
KRUNCH
NOW THAT DIDN'T SOUND GOOD AT ALL!
S-SAY, SONIC... I-I WAS W-WONDERING...
HM?

I--
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, CHUMPS!
NACK!
THE WEASEL.
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD GAME OF CHICKEN, HOG!
TOO BAD--
HE'S GOT SAL! SAL!!

KLUD
--YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A WEASEL, TURKEY. GOBBLE, GOBBLE!
HEY, YOU! STOP!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BABE...
"...I WOULDN'T IF I COULD!"
VIP VIP VIP
SPAK SPAK SPAK
GET DOWN.
SSSSSS
NO MATTER HOW FAST I AM...
...I CAN'T CATCH 'EM ALL AT THE SAME TIME! DOESN'T MATTER. I'VE GOT ENOUGH TO WORK WITH RIGHT HERE.
UNGHH..

WHAM
WHY'D YOU CREEPS KIDNAP HER?!
WHY ELSE? SHE'S A PRINCESS, DOPE. HER MOMMY AND DADDY'LL PAY US REAL GOOD IF SHE COMES HOME SAFE.
REAL WELL.
HUH?
YUH MEANT TO SAY "REAL WELL."
OOH, OOH, MISS BUNNIE RABBOT, PLEASE DON'T DROP ME FROM THIS WINDOW. I AM OH SO SCARED.
-: YAAWNN :- CAN I GO NOW?
YUH LUCKY AH'M A SOUTHERN BELLE AT HEART, YUH JERK!
WHUD
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

AHAHAHAH
HAHAHAHA
SONIC...FREEDOM FIGHTERS...
...LEAVE.
?
GUARDS... ENTER.
SLAM

WHY'D KING MAX MAKE US LEAVE?
MAYBE HE HAD A GOOD REASON...
THEY'VE TAKEN HER NINETY LEAGUES NORTH BY EIGHTY-NINE DEGREES NORTHWEST--
--TO AN OLD MANSION PASSED DOWN TO NACK BY HIS WEASEL ANCESTORS.
HOW'D YOU GET HIM TO TALK, YOUR HIGHNESS?
LET'S SAY I MADE HIM AN OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE.
OH, MAX...
WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THESE THIEVES--
--I'LL --I'LL--
--SONIC! I NEED YOU TO--
SONIC!
SONIC?
TO BE CONTINUED!

WHILE EVERYONE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND BELIEVES KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA HAS DIED, OUR FAVORITE ECHIDNA IS EXPERIENCING A DIFFERENT REALITY ALTOGETHER..

AFTERLIFE

Part Two

WAIT!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUARDIANS?!!

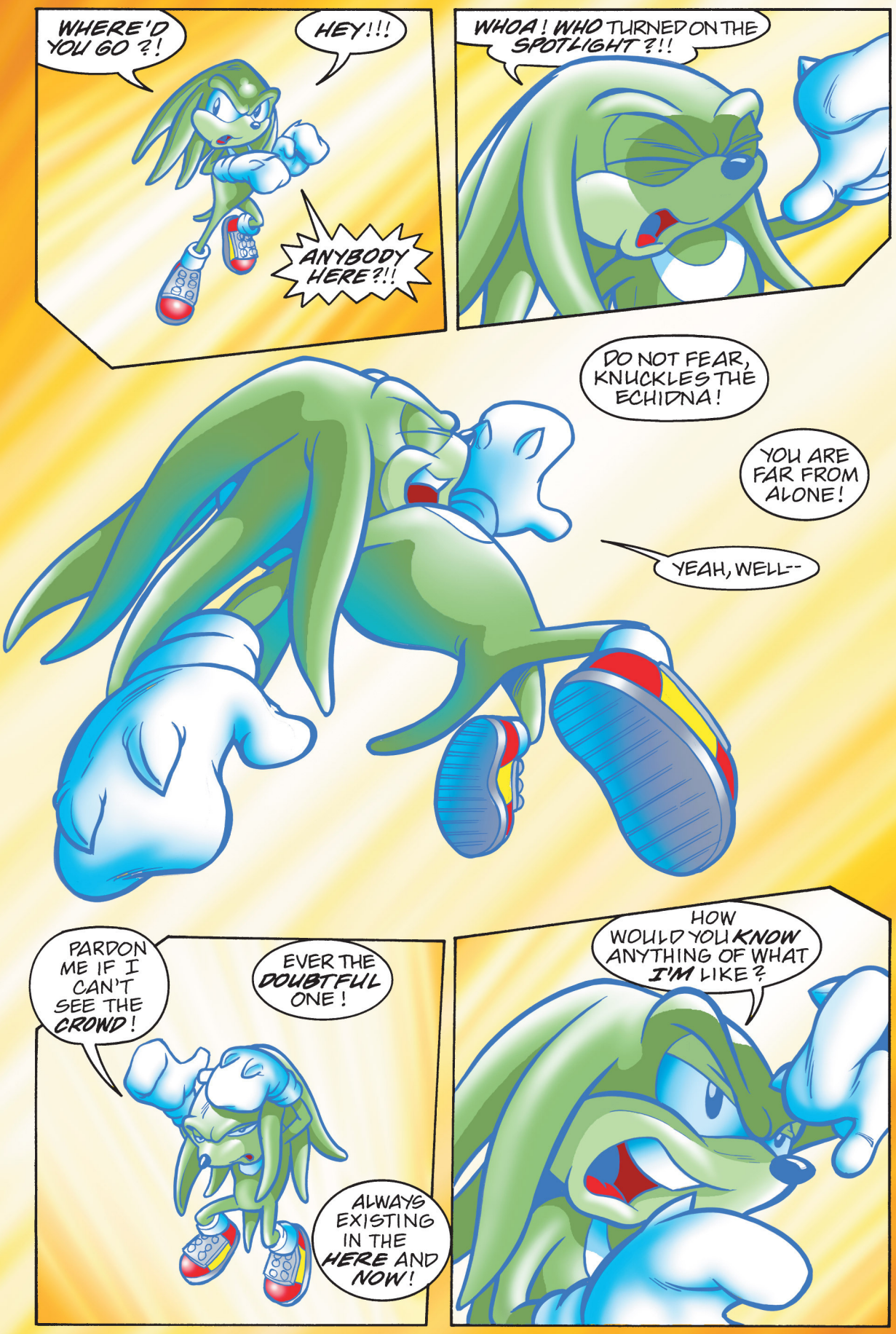
IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--
KEN PENDERS - SCRIPT & INKS
ART MAWHINNEY - PENCILS
VICKIE WILLIAMS - LETTERER
J. JENSEN - COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE - EDITOR
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA !

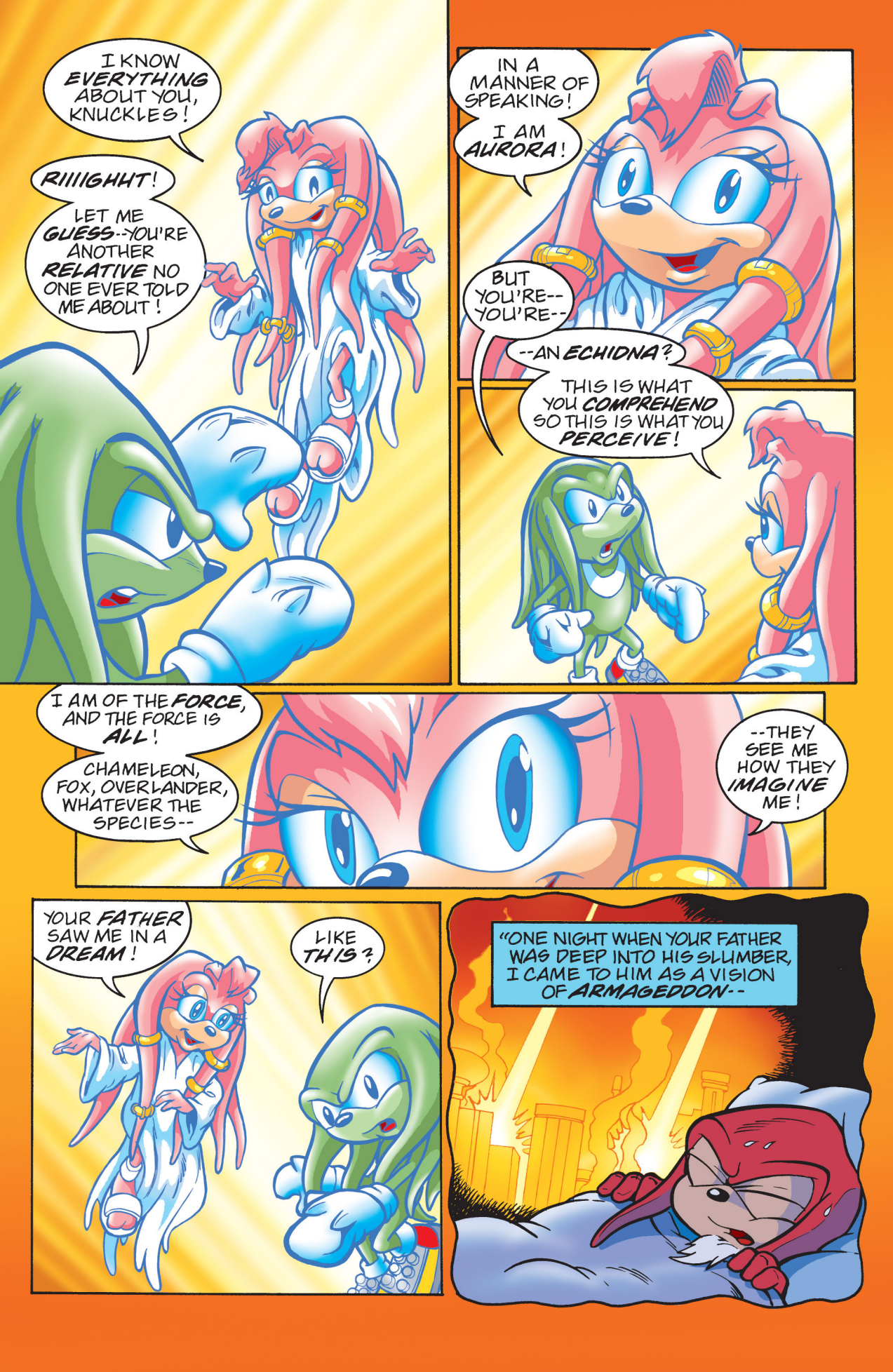
YOU GUYS GOT A NAME?

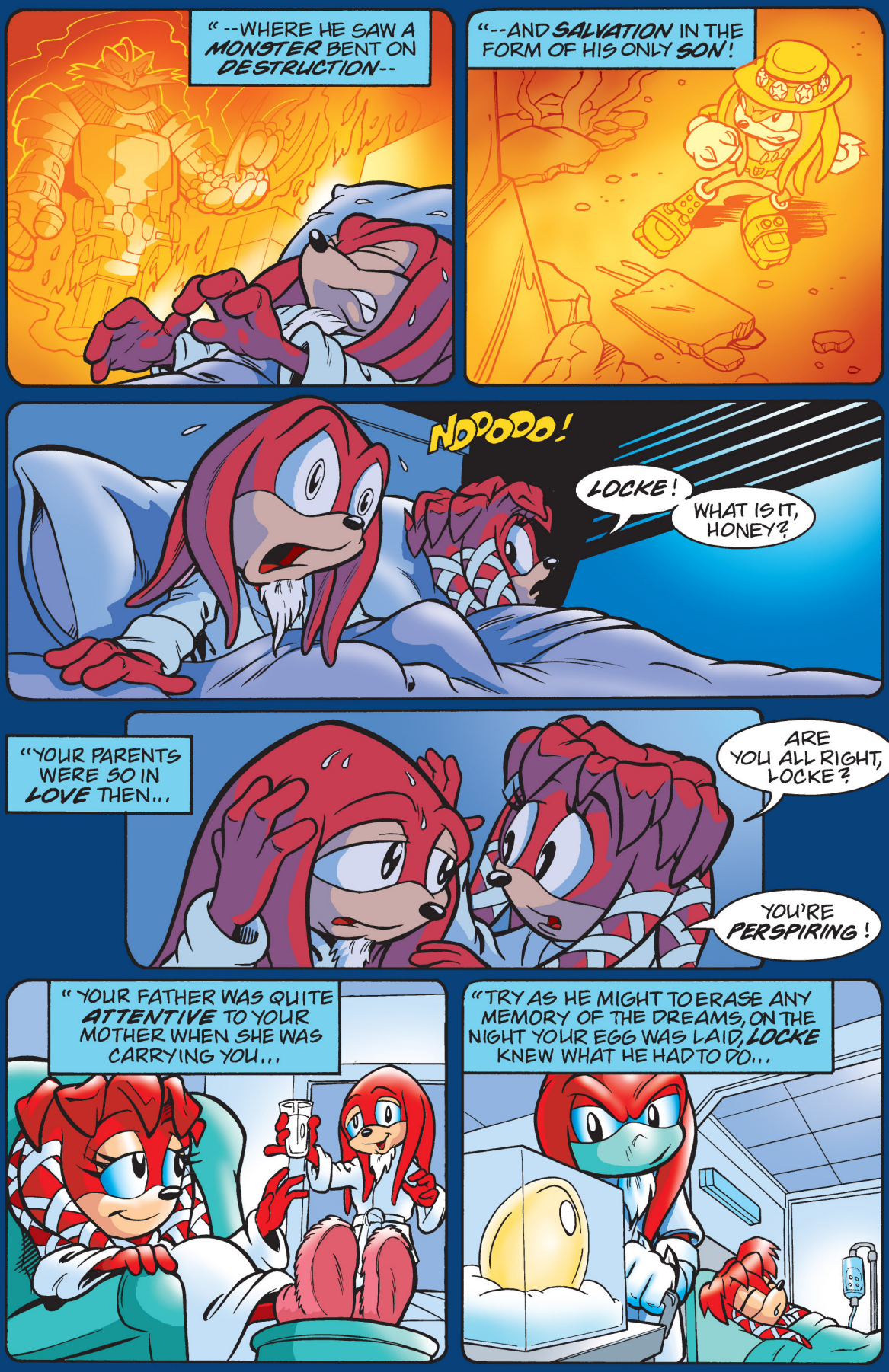
CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING?!!

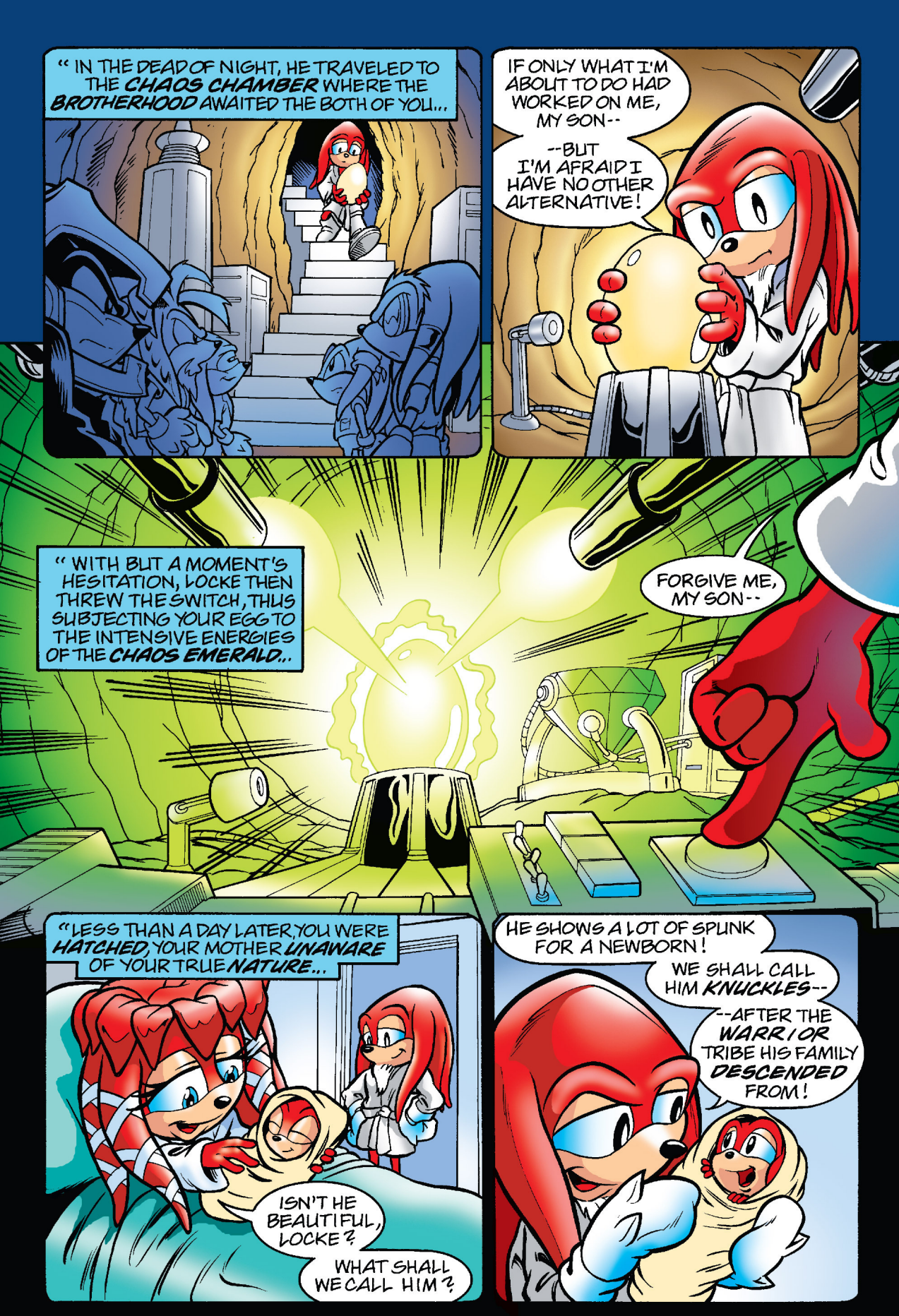
HOLD ON A SEC--!!!

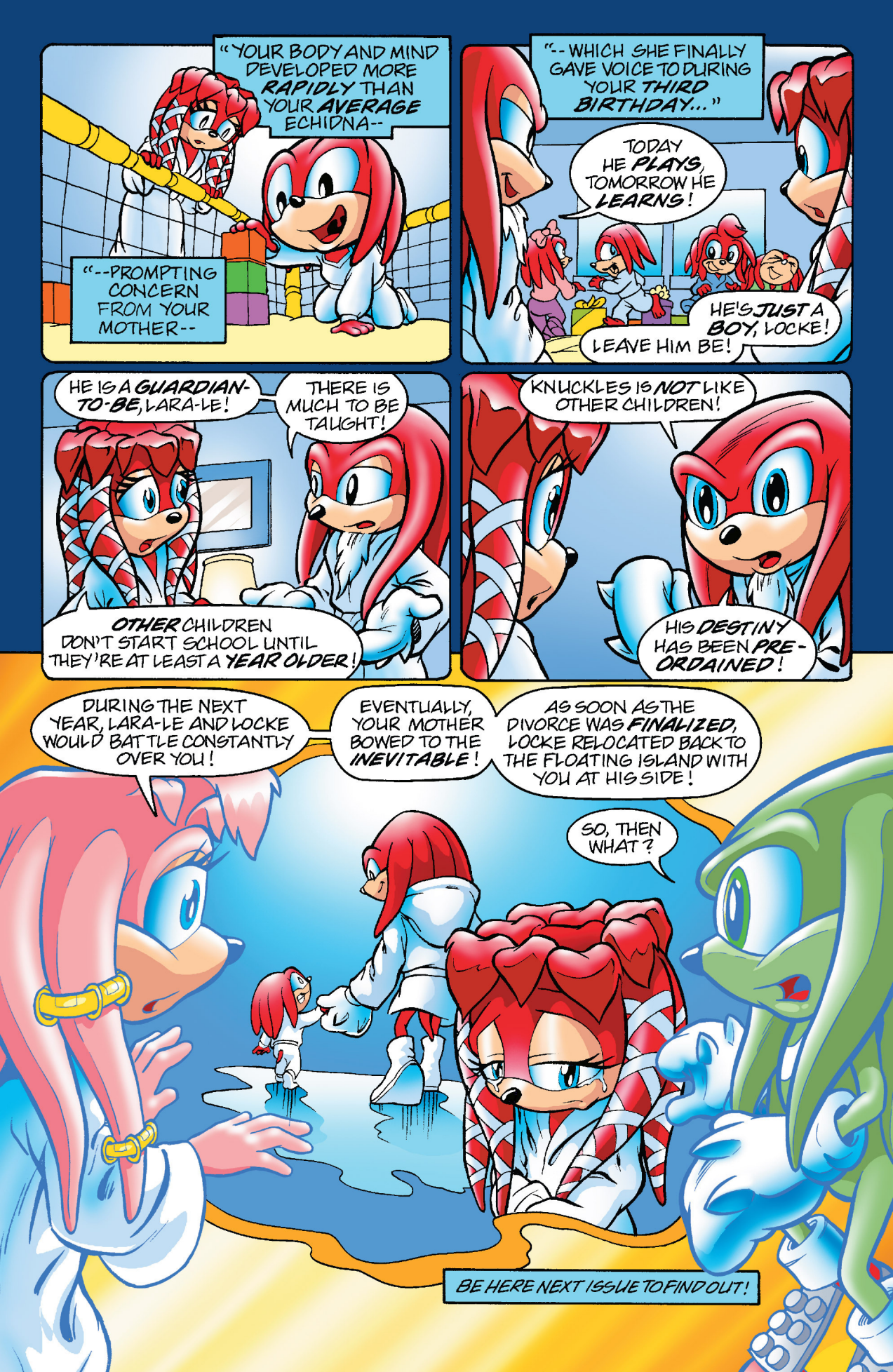
HUH?!

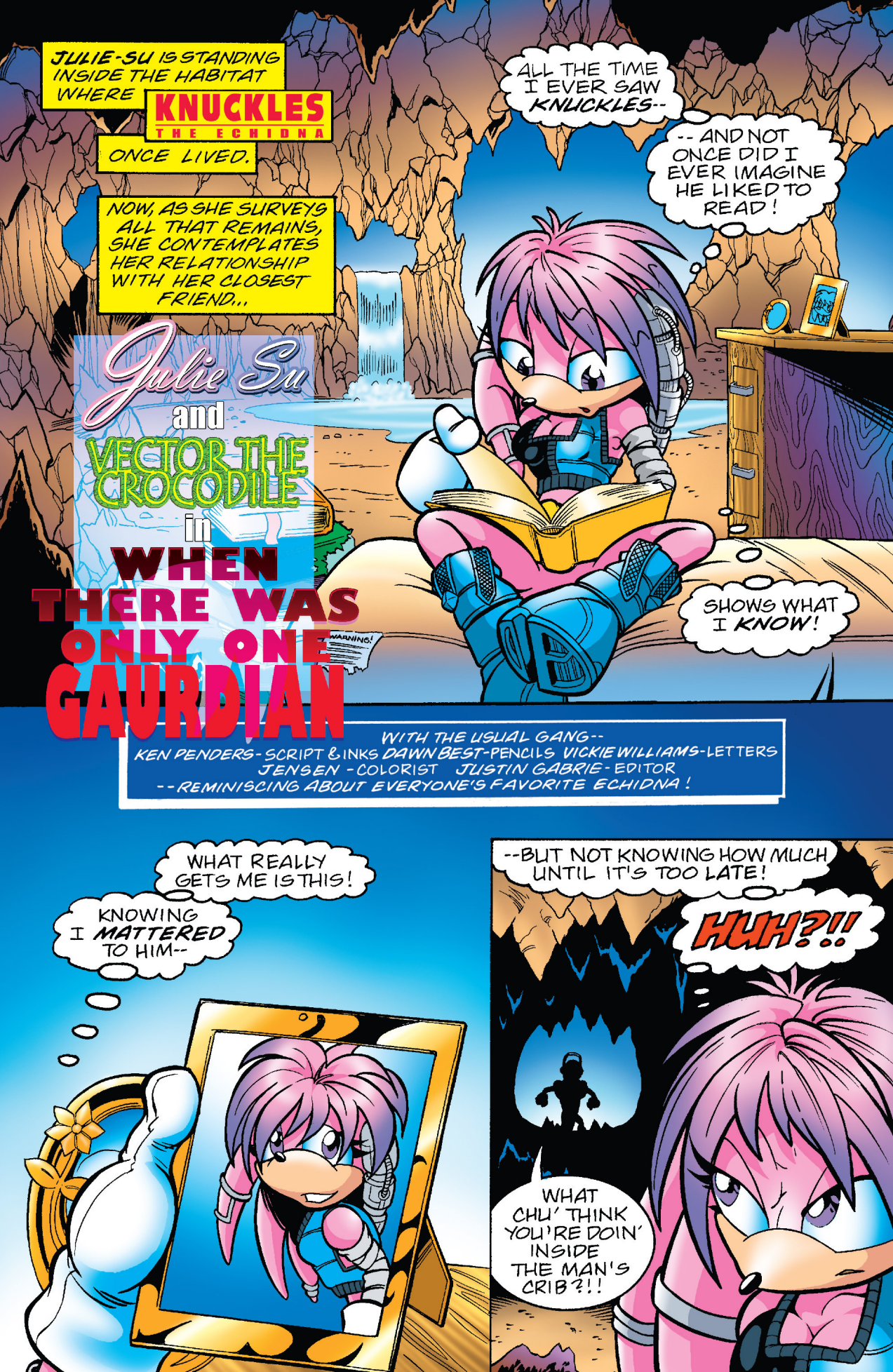

WHERE'D YOU GO ?!
HEY!!!
ANYBODY HERE?!!
WHOA! WHO TURNED ON THE SPOTLIGHT ?!!
DO NOT FEAR, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!
YOU ARE FAR FROM ALONE!
YEAH, WELL--
PARDON ME IF I CAN'T SEE THE CROWD!
EVER THE DOUBTFUL ONE!
ALWAYS EXISTING IN THE HERE AND NOW!
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF WHAT I'M LIKE?


I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, KNUCKLES!
RIIIIGHHT!
LET ME GUESS--YOU'RE ANOTHER RELATIVE NO ONE EVER TOLD ME ABOUT!
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!
I AM AURORA!
BUT YOU'RE-- YOU'RE--
--AN ECHIDNA?
THIS IS WHAT YOU COMPREHEND SO THIS IS WHAT YOU PERCEIVE!
I AM OF THE FORCE, AND THE FORCE IS ALL!
CHAMELEON, FOX, OVERLANDER, WHATEVER THE SPECIES--
--THEY SEE ME HOW THEY IMAGINE ME!
YOUR FATHER SAW ME IN A DREAM!
LIKE THIS?
"ONE NIGHT WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS DEEP INTO HIS SLUMBER, I CAME TO HIM AS A VISION OF ARMAGEDDON--

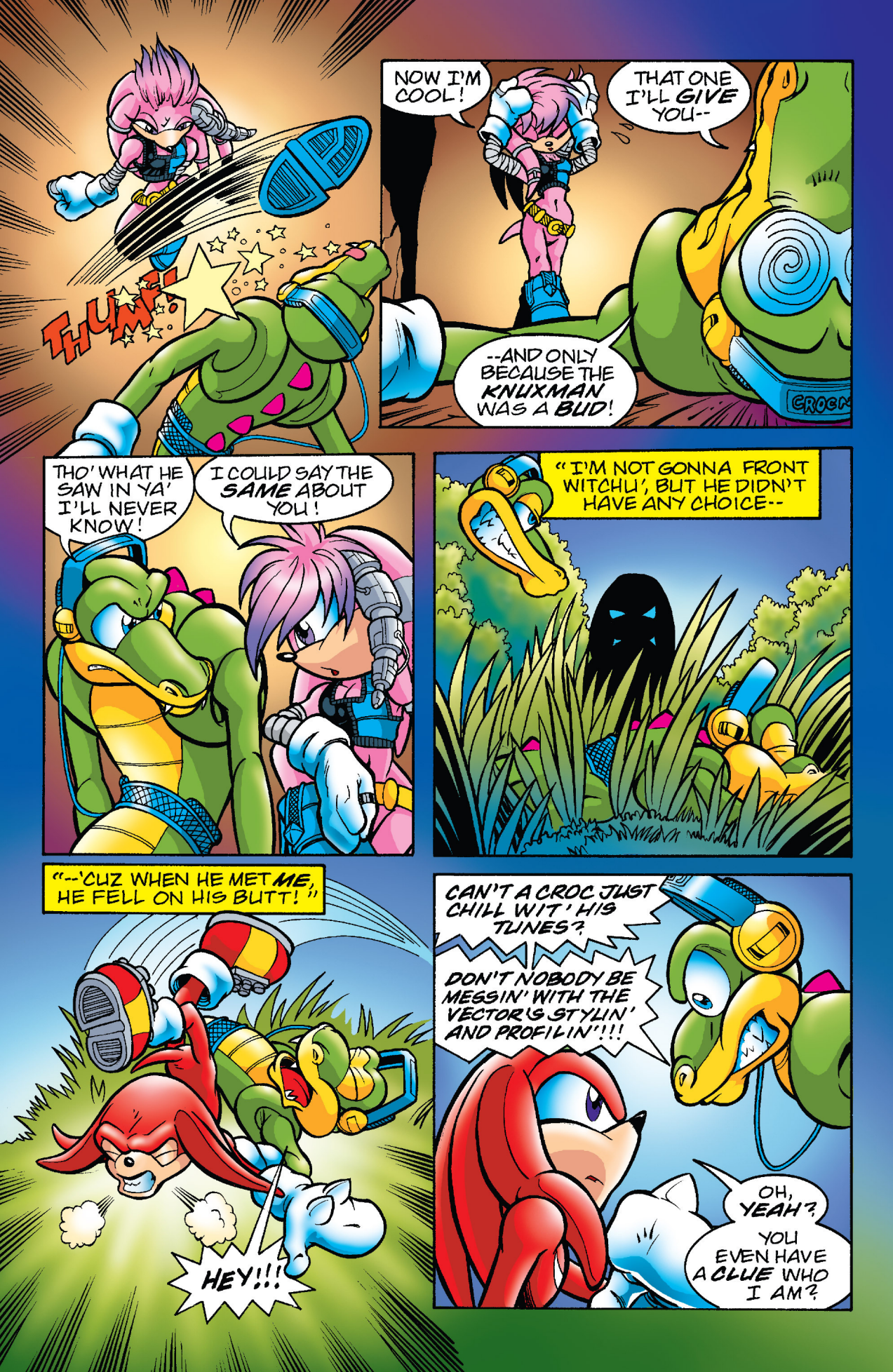

"--WHERE HE SAW A MONSTER BENT ON DESTRUCTION--
"--AND SALVATION IN THE FORM OF HIS ONLY SON!
NOOOOO!
LOCKE!
WHAT IS IT, HONEY?
"YOUR PARENTS WERE SO IN LOVE THEN...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LOCKE?
YOU'RE PERSPIRING!
"YOUR FATHER WAS QUITE ATTENTIVE TO YOUR MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS CARRYING YOU...
"TRY AS HE MIGHT TO ERASE ANY MEMORY OF THE DREAMS, ON THE NIGHT YOUR EGG WAS LAID, LOCKE KNEW WHAT HE HAD TO DO...

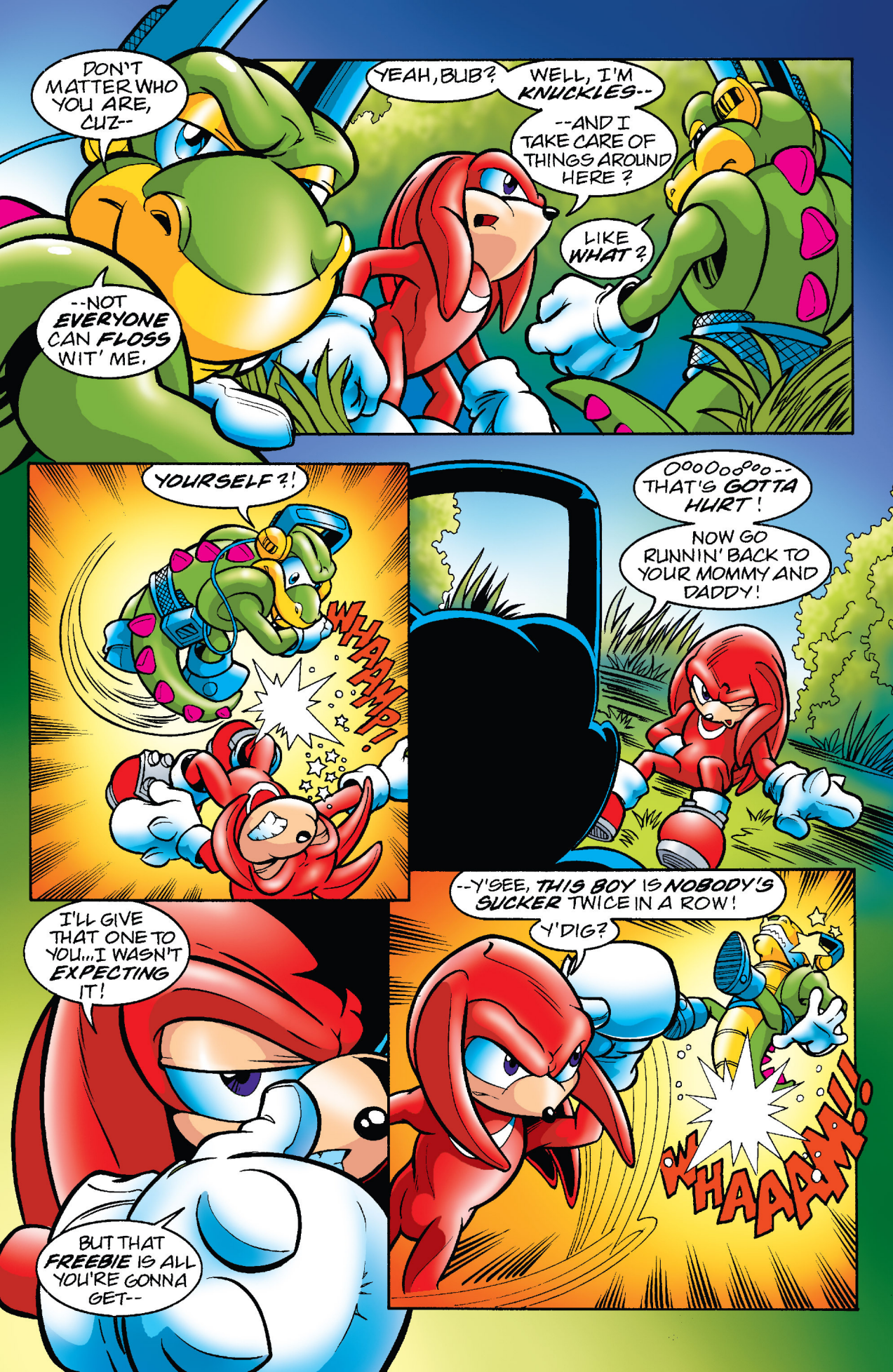

" IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE TRAVELED TO THE CHAOS CHAMBER WHERE THE BROTHERHOOD AWAITED THE BOTH OF YOU...
IF ONLY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO HAD WORKED ON ME, MY SON--
--BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE!
" WITH BUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, LOCKE THEN THREW THE SWITCH, THUS SUBJECTING YOUR EGG TO THE INTENSIVE ENERGIES OF THE CHAOS EMERALD...
FORGIVE ME, MY SON--
"LESS THAN A DAY LATER, YOU WERE HATCHED, YOUR MOTHER UNAWARE OF YOUR TRUE NATURE...
ISN'T HE BEAUTIFUL, LOCKE?
WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM?
HE SHOWS A LOT OF SPUNK FOR A NEWBORN!
WE SHALL CALL HIM KNUCKLES--
--AFTER THE WARRIOR TRIBE HIS FAMILY DESCENDED FROM!

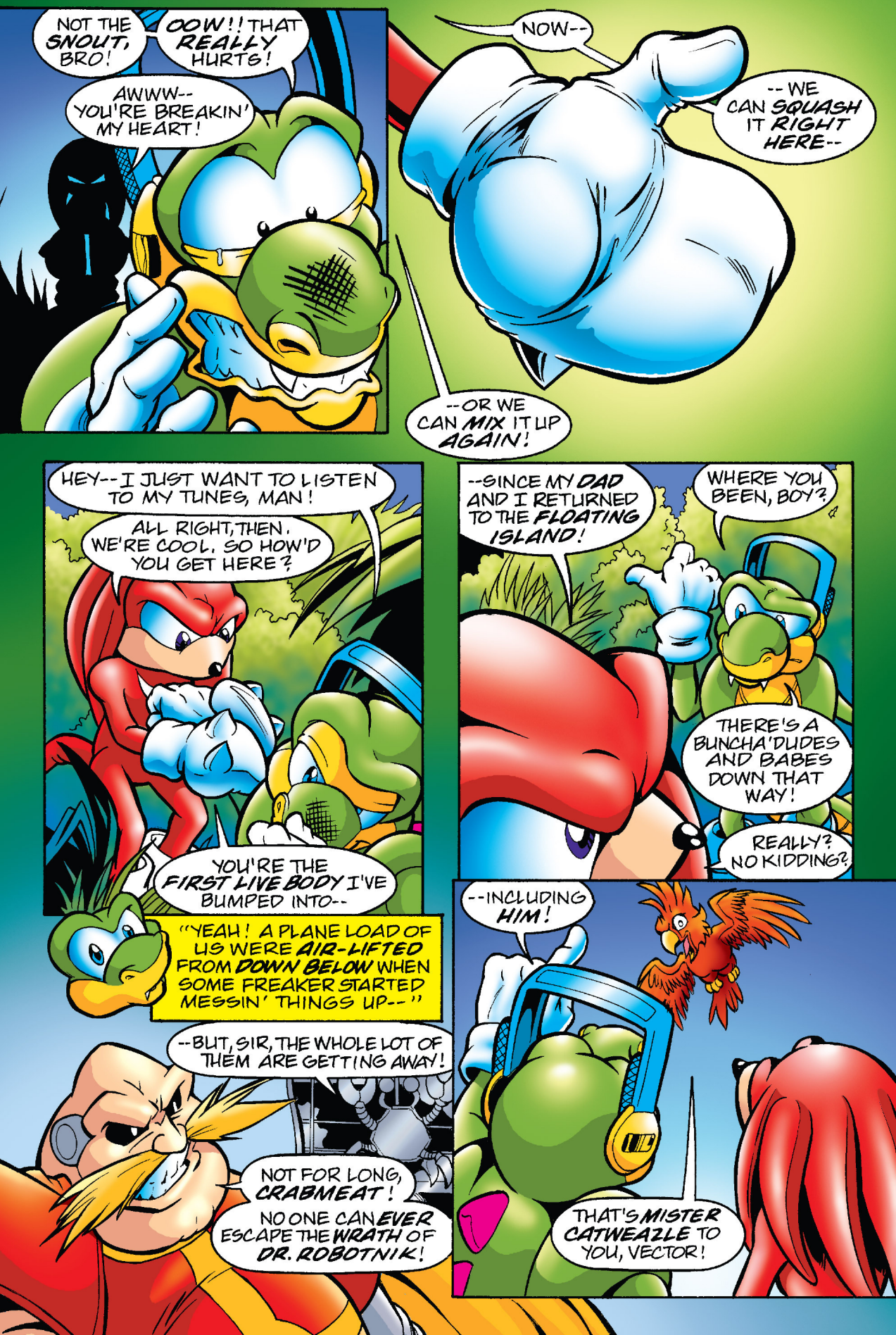

"YOUR BODY AND MIND DEVELOPED MORE RAPIDLY THAN YOUR AVERAGE ECHIDNA--
"--PROMPTING CONCERN FROM YOUR MOTHER--
"-- WHICH SHE FINALLY GAVE VOICE TO DURING YOUR THIRD BIRTHDAY..."
TODAY HE PLAYS, TOMORROW HE LEARNS!
HE'S JUST A BOY, LOCKE!
LEAVE HIM BE!
HE IS A GUARDIAN-TO-BE, LARA-LE!
THERE IS MUCH TO BE TAUGHT!
OTHER CHILDREN DON'T START SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE AT LEAST A YEAR OLDER!
KNUCKLES IS NOT LIKE OTHER CHILDREN!
HIS DESTINY HAS BEEN PRE-ORDAINED!
DURING THE NEXT YEAR, LARA-LE AND LOCKE WOULD BATTLE CONSTANTLY OVER YOU!
EVENTUALLY, YOUR MOTHER BOWED TO THE INEVITABLE!
AS SOON AS THE DIVORCE WAS FINALIZED, LOCKE RELOCATED BACK TO THE FLOATING ISLAND WITH YOU AT HIS SIDE!
SO, THEN WHAT?
BE HERE NEXT ISSUE TO FIND OUT!

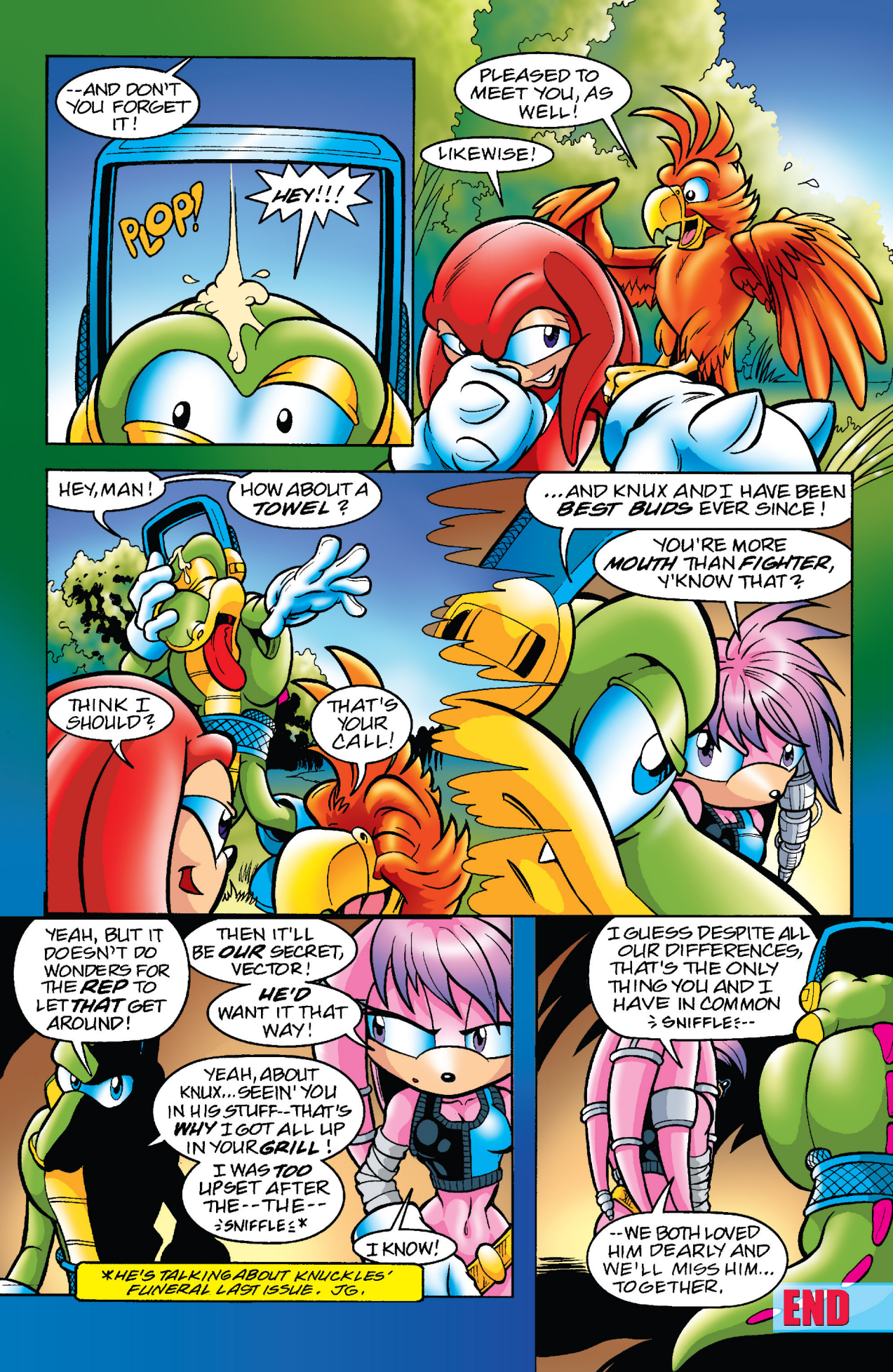

JULIE-SU IS STANDING INSIDE THE HABITAT WHERE KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA ONCE LIVED.
NOW, AS SHE SURVEYS ALL THAT REMAINS, SHE CONTEMPLATES HER RELATIONSHIP WITH HER CLOSEST FRIEND...
Julie Su
and
VECTOR THE CROCODILE
in
WHEN THERE WAS ONLY ONE GAURDIAN
ALL THE TIME I EVER SAW KNUCKLES--
-- AND NOT ONCE DID I EVER IMAGINE HE LIKED TO READ!
SHOWS WHAT I KNOW!
WARNING!
WITH THE USUAL GANG--
KEN PENDERS - SCRIPT & INKS DAWN BEST - PENCILS VICKIE WILLIAMS - LETTERS
JENSEN - COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE - EDITOR
--REMINISCING ABOUT EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA!
WHAT REALLY GETS ME IS THIS!
KNOWING I MATTERED TO HIM--
--BUT NOT KNOWING HOW MUCH UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!
HUH?!!
WHAT CHU' THINK YOU'RE DOIN' INSIDE THE MAN'S CRIB?!!

GET A GRIP, VECTOR!
IF YOU THINK FOR ONE MOMENT I'M GOING TO PUT UP WITH YOUR GARBAGE--
--YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE SORRY CROC!
SEZ WHO? YOU?
BAT
KLIK!
VOL
BAAAM!
YOU OKAY, BABE?
DIDN'T MEAN TO BLAST YA' SO HARD!


THUMP!
NOW I'M COOL!
THAT ONE I'LL GIVE YOU--
--AND ONLY BECAUSE THE KNUXMAN WAS A BUD!
CROC
THO' WHAT HE SAW IN YA' I'LL NEVER KNOW!
I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU!
"I'M NOT GONNA FRONT WITCHU', BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE--
"--'CUZ WHEN HE MET ME, HE FELL ON HIS BUTT!"
HEY!!!
CAN'T A CROC JUST CHILL WIT' HIS TUNES?
DON'T NOBODY BE MESSIN' WITH THE VECTOR'S STYLIN' AND PROFILIN'!!!
OH, YEAH?
YOU EVEN HAVE A CLUE WHO I AM?


DON'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE, CUZ--
--NOT EVERYONE CAN FLOSS WIT' ME.
YEAH, BUB?
WELL, I'M KNUCKLES--
--AND I TAKE CARE OF THINGS AROUND HERE?
LIKE WHAT?
YOURSELF?!
WHAAMP!
OOOOoooo--THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
NOW GO RUNNIN' BACK TO YOUR MOMMY AND DADDY!
I'LL GIVE THAT ONE TO YOU... I WASN'T EXPECTING IT!
BUT THAT FREEBIE IS ALL YOU'RE GONNA GET--
--Y'SEE, THIS BOY IS NOBODY'S SUCKER TWICE IN A ROW!
Y'DIG?
WHAAAM!!


NOT THE SNOUT, BRO!
OOW!! THAT REALLY HURTS!
AWWW-- YOU'RE BREAKIN' MY HEART!
NOW--
--WE CAN SQUASH IT RIGHT HERE--
--OR WE CAN MIX IT UP AGAIN!
HEY--I JUST WANT TO LISTEN TO MY TUNES, MAN!
ALL RIGHT, THEN. WE'RE COOL. SO HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
YOU'RE THE FIRST LIVE BODY I'VE BUMPED INTO--
"YEAH! A PLANE LOAD OF US WERE AIR-LIFTED FROM DOWN BELOW WHEN SOME FREAKER STARTED MESSIN' THINGS UP--"
--SINCE MY DAD AND I RETURNED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND!
WHERE YOU BEEN, BOY?
THERE'S A BUNCHA DUDES AND BABES DOWN THAT WAY!
REALLY? NO KIDDING?
--INCLUDING HIM!
THAT'S MISTER CATWEAZLE TO YOU, VECTOR!
--BUT, SIR, THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM ARE GETTING AWAY!
NOT FOR LONG, CRABMEAT!
NO ONE CAN EVER ESCAPE THE WRATH OF DR. ROBOTNIK!


--AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
PLOP!
HEY!!!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, AS WELL!
LIKEWISE!
HEY, MAN!
HOW ABOUT A TOWEL?
...AND KNUX AND I HAVE BEEN BEST BUDS EVER SINCE!
YOU'RE MORE MOUTH THAN FIGHTER, Y'KNOW THAT?
THINK I SHOULD?
THAT'S YOUR CALL!
YEAH, BUT IT DOESN'T DO WONDERS FOR THE REP TO LET THAT GET AROUND!
THEN IT'LL BE OUR SECRET, VECTOR!
HE'D WANT IT THAT WAY!
YEAH, ABOUT KNUX...SEEIN' YOU IN HIS STUFF--THAT'S WHY I GOT ALL UP IN YOUR GRILL!
I WAS TOO UPSET AFTER THE--THE--
:SNIFFLE:*
I KNOW!
*HE'S TALKING ABOUT KNUCKLES' FUNERAL LAST ISSUE. JG.
I GUESS DESPITE ALL OUR DIFFERENCES, THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU AND I HAVE IN COMMON
:SNIFFLE:--
--WE BOTH LOVED HIM DEARLY AND WE'LL MISS HIM... TOGETHER.
END